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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

thirty-six pages of tables. The work of the Juvenile Probation Officers is disposed of in three and one-half pages of report and two statistical tables. As very little is said concerning methods of administration, and as the treatment of each subject is exceedingly brief, this report is of little value to probation officers from other states.

Chicago.

JOEL D. HUNTER.

STERILISATION UND KASTRATION ALS HILFSMITTEL IM KAMPFE GEGEN DAS VERBRECHEN. Von *Dr. Friedr. Ludw. Gerngross*. J. F. Lehmann's Verlag, Munchen, 1913, pp. 39 M, 1.20.

The idea that society has a right to and should protect itself against its anti-social members, so warmly agitated at the present time, is by no means a new one.

Already in the ancient Greek and Roman states there was a recognition of this principle, but we of today shudder at the mere mention of the methods used by the ancients. The next step in our efforts to deal with this problem was the enactment of laws forbidding the unfit to marry. Some of our own states were among the first to enact such laws, but it was soon discovered that while these laws were absolutely correct in principle, they were entirely useless in practice. Prevention of marriage does not in the least assure prevention of propagation. Especially is this true among the classes under consideration here. With them restriction of marriage means in most instances an increase in illegitimacy.

Asexualization of the unfit is the present-day battle cry in all quarters, and it is with the legal phases of these preventive measures that the author, whose pamphlet of some forty pages is before us, concerns himself. Gerngross, a jurist, commits himself unqualifiedly for sterilization as a means of prevention of crime, and it is indeed gratifying to the medical profession to see so much interest in this purely medical subject on the part of their legal brethren. For the very interesting discussion of the legal phases of this problem, we will have to refer the reader to the original, as it lends itself but very poorly to brief abstraction.

BERNARD GLUECK, M. D.

Government Hospital for the Insane.

DIE RASSENHYGIENE IN DEN VEREINIGTEN STAATEN VON NORD AMERIKA. Von *Geza Von Hoffman*. J. F. Lehmann's Verlag, Munchen, 1913, pp. 250, M 4.

There was a time when the mere suggestion of the possibility of America teaching Europe anything in the biologic sciences would have provoked a good deal of doubt; and it is indeed very gratifying to see that the unexpected has happened.

In the volume before us, we see an attempt by a European to bring before his countrymen in their own language a critical summary of the activities in the United States in the field of Eugenics or Race-culture.

The author particularly emphasizes the practical, the every-day

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phases of this problem, and it is quite evident that he tries to imbue his readers with some of our utilitarianism. Says he, in the introduction, "America is in no way radical, it is only rational to the point of sobriety; here one does not concern himself whether a thing is new or old, whether tried or proven, if it appears reasonable, rational, it is tried, and when it stands the test it is taken over for permanent use."

As the author merely wishes to set forth in this volume the present status of the Race-culture Movement in the United States, it is doubtful whether those of us who have been keeping up with the American literature on the subject will find anything new in the book.

In the first chapter on the "Principles of Race-culture" the author discusses in a very able manner the theories of evolution, selection and variation; the principles of heredity, Mendelism, the question of transmission of acquired characteristics and the principles of Eugenics.

The second chapter deals in a very thorough and candid manner with the inception and spread of the Eugenic Movement in this country and describes the various private and state agencies engaged with this problem. Chapters three and four are to be especially recommended for their clear and critical resume of the present status in this country of the questions of marriage regulation and the sterilization of the unfit. The reader will find these chapters up to date in every way.

The laws of the United States governing these subjects are tabulated and form an easy and clear means of reference. A special chapter is devoted to "Immigration and Eugenics." A detailed description of the laws on these subjects follows in the appendix, and the book closes with a very valuable bibliography of over 900 publications.

Those who have access to the German language should feel very grateful to the author for his excellent presentation of the present status of this subject.

BERNARD GLUECK, M. D.

Government Hospital for the Insane.

REPORT OF THE HARTFORD VICE COMMISSION, HARTFORD, CONN. July, 1913. Pp. 90.

In January, 1912, the Court of Common Council of the city of Hartford passed a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to appoint a committee to inquire into the conditions existing within the limits of the city with reference to the social evil. This volume is the report of the committee.

In the November, 1911, issue of the JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY the report of the Vice Commission of Chicago was reviewed by Carl Kelsey of the University of Pennsylvania. He concludes by saying, "In my opinion this is the most significant inquiry yet made in this field in America. Gruesome and horrible in many ways, the report is yet of compelling interest. It deserves wide attention." The report of the Hartford Committee deserves similar attention. One might presume that conditions would be found so variant in cities of such different size as Chicago and Hartford that there would be little similarity between reports on the social evil of these cities. The two